

In the abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

An automatic label inspection system that is relatively inexpensive, flexible and easy to set up. A digital watermark is embedded in a label prior to the printing process. ~~[As is conventional in digital watermark technology, the]~~ The digital watermark is duplicated many times in multiple areas of the image. That is, the ~~[images]~~ image is divided into ~~[area]~~ areas, and a copy of the watermark is embedded into each area. ~~[Conventional digital watermarks often include both a grid and a payload signal. The present invention merely requires use of the watermark grid signal.]~~ A label is inspected by reading the watermark ~~[grid]~~ signal from each area of the image. The strength of the watermark ~~[grid]~~ signal is used as a measure of the quality of the label.